President Bush was the biggest political winner from the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. He and First Lady Barbara Bush set a new public tone for the 1990s.

As the nineties dawned, a deepening economic recession, and high unemployment figures, meant that for large numbers of people the previous decade's freewheeling spending came to a screeching halt.

George Bush, who had replaced two-term Republican President Ronald Reagan in 1988, was widely quoted for his affirmation that his would be an administration leading "a kinder, gentler nation." The sentiment behind this statement was welcomed

Bush acted firmly, in January 1991, spearheading the United Nations forces that repelled the invading Iraqi army from its "incursion" into Kuwait. This conflict referred to as the Gulf War) sparked anti-war demonstrations. But at the same time, a huge outpouring of patriotic support was shown for the troops sent to the Gulf. People across America tied yellow ribbons around trees and lampposts, and many

People also began wearing flag and other patriotically embellished apparel, which were quickly offered for sale.

"ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING AS LONG AS YOU'RE HAPPY"

"FALSE OPTIMISM WILL BE THE HALLMARK OF THE DECADE"

Grayson Eli Local Microbe Press

American Imperialism in the Early 1990s